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4 SEP 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Briefing of Staff Members from the
House Committee on Intelligence

1. Introduction. On 3 September 1975 [redacted],
[redacted] using the alias
[redacted], briefed the Staff Members of the House
Committee on Intelligence on the Agency's performance
in the International Narcotics Control Program in Burma.
The briefing started at 1030 hours and continued until
approximately 1215. The Staff Members from the House
Committee on Intelligence who attended were: John L.
Boos, Roscoe Starek and Cheryl Yamamoto. Also in at-
tendance were [redacted] of the Review Staff and Mr.
[redacted]

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2. Briefing. The Staff Members were provided with
a brief background on the international narcotics situ-
ation in 1971 leading up to the Administration's
"declaration of a war" on heroin in September 1971, and
the Agency's enlistment in this effort. The relative
size of national illegal opium growers was sketched by
way of focusing attention on the Golden Triangle as the
principle arena for our operations. The Burma operating
milieu was sketched along with the Who, Where and How of
the international narcotics scene in SEA. The Staff
Members were briefed on the ground rules for operations
in Burma, the Agency's role in [redacted]
and the command and control channels in which the
Station operated. The way in which the priority was
established for this target was described, as well as
the Headquarters-Field relationship. As the briefing
progressed there was opportunity to example this re-
lationship citing specific operations. Three examples
of covert action were provided the Staff Members, i.e.,
[redacted]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] To the extent that they could be ascertained, the results of the Agency's efforts in the Golden Triangle during this period were described in terms of the impact on the domestic heroin market. (An outline of the briefing is on file in [REDACTED])

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3. Questions Posed by the Staff Members from the House Committee on Intelligence. The Staff Members posed several questions, some of them relating to the possibility of another dimension of Agency relationships with narcotics figures beyond intelligence collection and covert action. Specifically, the questions were these:

A. Q: Did the Agency have a relationship with LO Hsing-han?

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A: This was answered in the negative. When later on in the briefing Staff Members returned to this question, [REDACTED] went to some length to state that to the best of his knowledge no Agency officer had ever seen or met with LO Hsing-han, or engaged in any dealings with him either directly or indirectly. Since this subject seemed to give the Staff Members some difficulty, they were invited to phrase the question again in any manner they chose. Mr. Starek explained that the Staff Members felt they had to get the question on the record and the answer to it.

B. Q: How much money was spent on the international narcotics program?

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A: In FY '71 there was no separate budget for this program and such agents who were funded for narcotics intelligence collection probably received less than [REDACTED] total. In FY '72 total expenditures were approximately [REDACTED]. In FY '73 expenses were [REDACTED]. In FY '74 a total of [REDACTED] was programmed. Mr. Boos asked how much of this had actually been expended. He was answered that this figure was not immediately available but would be given to him in a separate memorandum at an early date. (ACTION: [REDACTED] to break out this figure and prepare a memo.)

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C. Q: At what point was the Cabinet Committee on Narcotics notified of the Agency's covert action operations against international narcotics targets?

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A: [] responded that normally the Cabinet Committee was informed of covert action in this field after the operations had been completed. The Cabinet Committee does not normally function as a formal approval mechanism, he explained. Since, in Burma, the activities under question were taken by the Burma Government itself, albeit at the suggestion of [] and on the basis of the [] formal approvals were deemed unnecessary and were not sought. Overall approval for the interdiction of international narcotics channels had already been given at the highest level.

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D. Q: Did the Peoples Republic of China engage in opium trafficking?

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A: In the normal sense of the word, no. However the PRC did purchase opium in BCP-controlled areas of Burma and shipped that opium into China, where it is believed to have been consigned to pharmaceutical factories. [] elaborated that the Agency had taken a hard look at charges that the PRC was involved in the opium traffic but had not found the intelligence to substantiate these charges. He said it was apparent that the charges stemmed from hostile propaganda traceable to the Soviet Union and the Republic of China.

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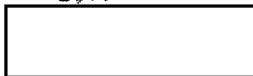
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the Staffers not put this information in their notes. The Staffers did not wholly consent to this reasoning, but did not pose further questions along this line.)

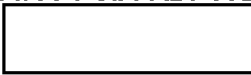
4. Comment. As was the case when [] briefed the Staff Members on 27 August, they appeared to be focused more on covert activities and approvals for such activities than they were on our intelligence collection efforts against this target.

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

[Redacted Box]

EXTENSION

NO.

1322

DATE

4 September 1975

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

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Review Staff

[Redacted Box]

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